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CALGARY • WEEKEND, JANUARY 23-25, 2009

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Music

pg 19

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Serial robber pleads guilty to bank heists

CRIME A serial robber pleaded guilty in court yesterday to the robbery of five Calgary financial institutions, according to the Calgary Police Service.

On Thursday, Robert Rouzault, 58, arrested on Nov. 19, 2008, for the robbery of four CIBC branches and one Bank of Montreal, pleaded guilty to five of six bank robbery charges and was subsequently sentenced to 12 years in jail on each count, to be served concurrently.

In 1988, Rouzault was sentenced to six years in jail for two Calgary bank robberies, and in 1993, he was sentenced to seven years in jail for two Calgary bank robberies. Then in 2000, Rouzault was sentenced to eight years in jail for two Calgary bank robberies.

METRO CALGARY

The 81st Annual
**Academy
Awards**



- Button, Slumdog lead way, page 14
- Quotes, page 14
- Rick McGuinnis, page 20

Business pg 11

Carney sees swift recovery

Celebrity Buzz pg 22

Jen plans bash for the big 4-0

Stampede **New sculptures**



George Brookman, president and chairman of the Calgary Stampede board; Wes Peters, project chair, CFA; and Rich Loffler, artist and sculptor stand near a new working-model sculpture of Outlaw, one of the top bucking bulls at the Calgary Stampede. It's one of 10 massive bronze sculptures planned by the Stampede's public art committee for areas around the city.

2 serious infections reported

Kids from same household

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Two Calgary children are being treated for meningococcal infections in the Alberta Children's Hospital this week.

One case has been confirmed through testing and the other is "virtually confirmed" while waiting tests results, according to an infectious disease expert at the hospital.

"This is a serious infection. These two cases, while they are not siblings, were from the same household and they are considered related," Dr. Jim Kellner said, adding he can't release specific information about the children.

It is not known how old the children are or how exactly they are related.

"They are being treated at the hospital and we need to respect their privacy."

While these two cases are related, Kellner wants Cal-

By the numbers

- While meningococcal infections are uncommon, the health region expects to see a number of cases each year.
- Last year in Alberta there were 21 cases of meningitis and four people died.

garians to know there is no need to panic.

"This is an important issue but there is no sense there is anything else going on. There is no concern this is any kind of outbreak. These two cases alone do not constitute an outbreak," he added.

Kellner said there is no link between the two cases and the case Monday night where the seven-year-old boy died in Calgary hospital after being transported from Lethbridge.

Meningococcal infections can cause meningitis, a serious inflammation of the brain lining, and is contagious among close contacts.

Woman walking home abducted, sexually assaulted: Police

CRIME Police believe a sexual predator is on the loose after an 18-year-old woman was assaulted early Thursday.

Police said the victim was walking home alone from

the beltline district around 3 a.m. when a man pulled up, grabbed her and shoved her into a white van, possibly a Chevrolet Venture.

Police said the victim was then driven to the parking

lot of Forest Lawn High School, where she was sexually assaulted and then forced from the vehicle.

Staff Sgt. Curtis Olson said the attack lasted 30 minutes and the woman is

being treated for injuries consistent with a choking.

Police said the attack appears to be a crime of opportunity, as there was no indication the victim knew the man, who is described

as a white male in his late 30s to early 40s with blonde hair, has missing teeth and a tattoo on his right shoulder. He was wearing a green shirt and blue jeans.

JENNIFER HILLIKER/FOR METRO CALGARY

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Spitting on Calgary soil proved to be a big mistake for a man wanted for homicide in Edmonton. Police detained Joseph Sunchild Lagrelle, 23, after they saw him spitting on the ground and upon identification police learned there was a warrant for his arrest in relation to a November Edmonton homicide. Lagrelle will appear in court on Jan. 26. **METRO CALGARY**

Local



Chinese New Year celebrations launch

The Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre is presenting the "2009 Year of the Ox Chinese New Year Carnival" — a three-day extravaganza from Jan. 23 to 25 to celebrate the new year on Monday. The activities at the Centre, located at 197 1st St. S.W., will include the Golden Dragon and the Multiple Lions Dance at noon on Sunday.

METRO CALGARY

Investigation into alleged violations called for by Grit

POLITICS An Alberta Liberal believes alleged election violations during last year's election should be investigated. Alberta Liberal justice critic Kent Hehr is calling for a public inquiry into the alleged violations committed under the Alberta Election Act in the last provincial election.

"Getting the details about these election violations and why Alberta Justice hasn't laid charges and proceeded to prosecution is important if we're going to restore faith in our democratic processes," Hehr said.

City gets homeless funding for shelters

HOUSING Calgary will soon be able to house more homeless overnight, with \$750,000 in funding from the Alberta government now added to two homeless shelters in the city. A \$350,000 grant was given to the Inn from the Cold Society from Housing and Urban Affairs while \$400,000 was given to Brenda's House.

METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Peter Lougheed takes recent Alberta governments to task at metronews.ca/canada
Video Vancouver Taser inquiry hears from victim's mother at metronews.ca/canada

Enviro efforts encouraged

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

Calgary kids across the city who have been gearing up for the 20th annual Mayor's Environment Expo have just scored their schools a \$300 incentive.

The City of Calgary has awarded 15 schools a grant of \$300 each to support environmental initiatives undertaken by those registered in the school showcase project for the three-day expo to be held on June 2, 3, and 4.

Shelley Long, a Grade 12 student at John G. Diefenbaker High School, started an environmental club last year and attended a ceremony at St. Paul Centre yesterday to announce their school's initiative and accept the money.

"I found that at our school there was a lack of participation," she said of her decision to start the club.

Long's group has set out to landscape their schoolyard and encourage staff, students, and the commu-



Dana Downey, teacher for John G. Diefenbaker High School, left top, Shelley Long, 16, student at John G. Diefenbaker High School, left bottom, Chester Lau, 16, right top, and Walter Pang, 16, both Sir Winston Churchill High School students all attended the Mayor's Environment Step Up to Green seminar yesterday.

nity to get involved in the gardening project.

"A lot of people trek through our school, so if they can walk through it and enjoy it ... hopefully they'll come back," she said.

Long was part of the group at the expo last year that raised \$52,000 for the

food bank by gathering 3,300 old cellphones for recycling.

Other projects this year among the schools include bringing composting worms into the classroom, purchasing and monitoring weather stations, and encouraging students to walk to school.

Brian Briggs, from the Calgary Separate School Division, said he's excited to see these initiatives take off. "So many times when kids are learning, the learning stops in the classroom," he said, adding that if anyone's going to solve our world's problems, "it's going to be teachers."

Smoking rates drop; teen rates stay high

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

RESEARCH A national study released by Health Canada on Monday showed that 19 per cent of Albertans over 15 were smokers during the first half of 2008, marking the first time statistics in Alberta reached under 20 per cent.

But Action on Smoking

and Health Calgary spokesperson Robyn Hauck said they are still concerned about the number of teens smoking.

"Smoking rates among Alberta teens remain disturbingly high despite the gains that have been made in reducing tobacco use among adults," said Hauck said, calling for another tax hike on smokes.

According to 2007

Health Canada Stats, 20 per cent of Alberta teens 15 to 19 were current smokers.

Edmonton ASH spokesperson Karlee Stevens called for an outright ban on flavoured cigarettes to drastically reduce that number.

"They are absolutely geared towards youth because of the taste and packaging. They look like

lip gloss and youth are more prone to try them and get hooked," she added.

And 15-year-old Michelle, of Calgary, agrees.

"I didn't even start smoking until just a year ago. I always said I never would but I caved in to peer pressure," the teen said, who didn't want to use her last name.

OxyContin targeted in robberies

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

DRUGS OxyContin seems to be the drug of choice for a couple believed to be responsible for a series of robberies with the last couple months at city pharmacies.

Police believe the same duo, a female and a male, are responsible for up to 10 robberies, each time demanding the powerful drug.

"The man carries a knife and the girl claims to have a gun, though it hasn't been seen or confirmed," Staff Sgt. Beverly Voros said.

The robberies began in October 2008 and since then there have been up to 10, ironically enough, the latest happening 45 minutes before the scheduled press conference yesterday.

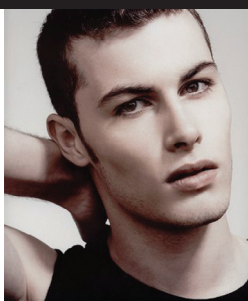
"We believe they may live in the area," Voros said, noting most of the robberies have occurred in the southwest areas of Glamorgan, Strathcona Park and Rosscarrock.

Voros said OxyContin is a heroin-based drug that can be very "powerful and dangerous."

"It could be for personal use or they can be selling."



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Drumheller Institution was put under lockdown yesterday after an inmate was attacked. The 36-year-old was rushed to hospital after he was discovered injured at about 8 a.m. As of yesterday afternoon, he was in hospital in stable condition. **METRO CALGARY**

Uncertainty leads some to psychics

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Calgary



These days, Calgarians are looking into the future — literally.

Those worried about their financial security during tough economic times have turned to psychics like Emjai, who only goes by her first name. She owns Mystic Moon, where she does different types of psychic readings like tarot, aura and chakra.

"The majority of people are coming in because of their jobs," Emjai said. "They're inquiring as to when the next door is go-

ing to open. With astrology, tarot and palmistry, people can dig deeper."

One of her clients, who did not wish to be named, went to see Emjai after he lost his job.

"She told me that I was going to find a job, but not specifically when or with who," he said.

Abby Smith, 24, recently went to a psychic when she was feeling emotional and financial turmoil with work.

"She told me what I already knew about my work, that I wasn't happy and it was holding me back from what I need to do. I ended up getting a second job because of it,"

she said. "I'm much happier and I love the second job."

Smith said even though she is busy working two jobs, she has upcoming plans to attend the same psychic to have her tarot cards read again.

Guy Siewart, who does readings at New Age Books and Crystals in Kensington, said people are asking questions about jobs and finances out of a sense of self-betterment.

"People are afraid of their stock prices going down or losing their homes," Siewart said. "They're also looking for the courage to make the next step in their lives."



Calgary psychic Emjai, owner of Mystic Moon, has seen an influx of clients inquiring about their employment and economic futures since the decline of the economy.

NDP urges citizens' input for budget

SUGGESTIONS The National Democratic Party is asking Albertan citizens and community leaders to come forward with their concerns and suggestions for the Alberta budget.

"Something dramatic has to come out of this year's provincial budget," NDP Leader Brian Mason said in a release.

"We believe it's the people of Alberta who have the best sense of what they need to succeed in the coming months, and we want to hear what they have to say."

The round table on the budget will bring together Albertans for a one-day workshop, where they will be asked to prioritize programs as well as consider "missed opportunities and possible areas of government waste."

The discussion will take place on Feb. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Mackay Avenue School in Edmonton.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and the NDP intend to incorporate what they hear into their response to the spring budget.

METRO CALGARY

What you need to know about

paying your outstanding 2008 Alberta health care premiums

Did you know that you may still owe?

Even though Albertans will no longer be billed for health care premiums in 2009, premium payments still owing to December 31, 2008 remain in effect.

Who is responsible for paying 2008 health care premiums?

- All Albertans unless they qualify for premium assistance, government-sponsored income support programs or are senior citizens.
- Employers and benefit administrators who collect and/or remit premiums on behalf of their employees.
- New Albertans who have registered and were eligible for Alberta Health Care Insurance in 2008.

Alberta Health and Wellness would like to thank Albertans who have paid 2008 premiums and remind those yet to pay their bill in full, that Alberta Health and Wellness will continue to issue statements on accounts with outstanding premiums. As well, those paying Alberta Blue Cross Non-Group insurance premiums, or other supplemental health premiums, will continue to pay in 2009 as those premiums remain in effect.

For more information visit www.health.alberta.ca or call toll-free 310-0000 then dial 780-427-1432. In Edmonton, call 780-427-1432.



Alberta A Healthy Approach

Cops ask for tips on jewel heist

CRIME City cops have released descriptions of the stolen items in last week's \$1-million jewelry heist and home invasion.

Stolen from the Alberta Diamond Exchange were loose diamonds, rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces and pendants, many belonging to customers who left them for repair.

Last Friday, three men barged into a Riverdale Avenue home and took six people hostage for hours, later forcing a man into his jewelry business to steal the merchandise. All men were armed in the ordeal.

Police ask anyone with information to come forward.

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Trees in western North America are dying twice as quickly as they did 30 years ago, with rising average temperatures almost certainly to blame, researchers reported Thursday. These thinner and weaker forests will become more vulnerable to wildfires and may soak up less carbon dioxide, in turn speeding up global warming, they said. **REUTERS**

Canada

Blowin' in the wind

The government of Ontario was expected to announce Friday another \$1.3-billion worth of renewable-energy projects, most of it wind, as part of its ongoing effort to green up the province's power mix, Torstar News Service has learned. Ontario expects to have 1,200 megawatts of wind power capacity in operation this summer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stem cells **Waiting for a match**



Other Half co-chairs Susan Go, left, and Amy Tam get the word out about stem cell donations Thursday in Toronto. People of Chinese descent are under-represented in the stem-cell donor pool to the point the chance of finding a match is less than 10 per cent.

Tories plan to go \$64B in red

Canada will post \$64 billion in deficits over the next two fiscal years to stimulate a flagging economy, but it will return to surplus in five years, a senior government official said Thursday.

The deficits will mark an end to 12 straight years of surpluses for Canada, which had been the only member of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations still in the black.

The aide said Ottawa would run a deficit of \$30 billion in the following fiscal year, starting April 1, 2010, and deficits would keep getting smaller thereafter. Most of the stimulus

One surplus left

The official said government revenues — including corporate and personal taxes — have been declining with the

economic slowdown but, as far as he knew, the budget for the current fiscal year would remain in surplus.

spending would be short-term so as to prevent a permanent deficit from emerging, he said.

The aide was briefing reporters ahead of the minority Conservative government's budget, which it will deliver Tuesday.

In the campaign ahead of the Oct. 14 election, Harper had said a deficit could be

avoided, but as the global economy worsened he agreed at a summit in Washington the next month to join in concerted international stimulus efforts.

The figure of \$34 billion represents roughly two per cent of the value of the Canadian economy.

REUTERS

Hormone therapy fears baseless: MDs

HEALTH Hormone therapy is a safe and viable option for some Canadian women who want relief from hot flashes, night sweats and other severe symptoms of menopause, a panel of experts said Thursday.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada said new research has found short-term use of hormone therapy by women early in menopause is most effective and has "little appreciable effect on risk."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SASKATCHEWAN A second man has been charged in connection with a shooting that injured a six-year-old girl in Saskatoon last week, CBC News Online reports. The girl is listed in stable condition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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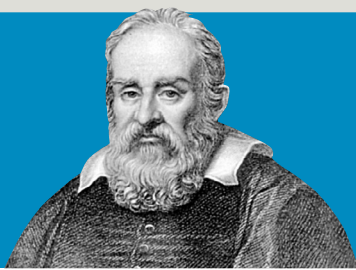
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World



Looking through Galileo's eyes

Italian and British scientists want to exhume the body of 16th-century astronomer Galileo for DNA tests to determine if his severe vision problems may have affected some of his findings. "If we knew exactly what was wrong with his eyes, we could use computer models to recreate what he saw in his telescope," said Paolo Galluzzi, director of the Museum of History and Science in Florence, the city where Galileo is buried. **REUTERS**

Obama focuses on U.S. image

U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday ordered the closing of Guantanamo prison and named foreign policy troubleshooters for the Middle East and Iran as he moves to repair America's tarnished image.

Obama set a one-year deadline for shutting Guantanamo and barred harsh treatment of terrorism suspects held there.

The prison in Cuba — where prisoners have been detained for years without charges, some subjected to what human rights groups say amounted to torture — had damaged America's moral standing.

Obama waded further into his foreign policy plans by paying a visit to the State Department to welcome Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate Wednesday.

His foreign policy goals include pursuing broader engagement overseas than the Bush administration, which was criticized for go-it-alone "cowboy diplomacy, and refocusing the fight against terrorism



U.S. President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton look toward one another yesterday after remarks at the State Department in Washington, D.C.

away from the Iraq war toward Afghanistan.

He named George Mitchell, a former senator, as an envoy Thursday who will try to jump-start Arab-Israeli peace talks. He also tapped former ambassador to the UN Richard Holbrooke as a special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. **REUTERS**

Clinton vows new era in diplomacy

FOREIGN POLICY Former New York Sen. Hillary Clinton officially took the helm at the State Department Thursday, promising a new era in U.S. diplomacy but tough times ahead.

About 1,000 employees crammed the department and cheered when Clinton

arrived for her first full day as secretary of state.

"I will do all that I can working with you to make it abundantly clear that robust diplomacy and effective development are the best long-term tools for securing America's future," Clinton said. **REUTERS**

UN launches aid efforts for Gaza Strip children

MIDDLE EAST The UN is launching a major aid effort to help tens of thousands of children in the aftermath of Israel's military campaign in Gaza, a top aid official said yesterday.

"We are scaling up our humanitarian support and looking to expand significantly our psychosocial support. The situation is very dire," said Sigrid Kaag, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Kaag said children, who form the majority of the 1.5 million Palestinians in

the Gaza Strip, bore the brunt of the three-week onslaught by Israeli troops to counter rocket attacks from the territory.

More than 400 children were among the 1,314 Palestinians killed and more than 1,800 children were injured, many suffering amputations or burns, Kaag said.

UNICEF aims to offer mass counselling and first aid. UN technical teams are aiming to open schools by mid-February and to repair quickly key water supply systems damaged by the bombing. **REUTERS**

House panel approves \$304B stimulus package

FUNDING A House panel yesterday approved a \$304 billion package of business and individual tax breaks and aid to the unemployed that is to be part of the huge \$825 billion economic stimulus sought by U.S. President Barack Obama.

The tax writing House Ways and Means Committee approved the package, which provides \$275 billion in tax breaks, on a largely party-line vote.

The package includes a temporary refundable tax

credit for workers. It also includes tax incentives for renewable energy and allows builders and other companies to write off current losses against five previous tax years.

The bill also provides money to help the unemployed keep health insurance coverage.

The package will be combined with other elements of the proposed stimulus, which the House is expected to vote on next week. **REUTERS**

News in brief

MELAMINE A Chinese court yesterday sentenced two men to death for their role in a tainted milk scandal that killed at least six children and provoked an outpouring of

public anger, while the woman most widely blamed for the tragedy got life in jail. Nearly 300,000 children fell ill last year after drinking milk intentionally laced with melamine,

a toxic industrial compound.

SMUGGLING A Swiss man suspected of involvement in the world's biggest nuclear smuggling ring claims he supplied

the CIA with information that led to the 2003 breakup of the black market network fuelling Libya's nuclear weapons program with parts. **REUTERS**

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48 whales die in beaching in Tasmania

A pod of 50 sperm whales beached themselves on Australia's southern island state of Tasmania overnight, but only two survived. **REUTERS**

world 9

China most disaster-hit

Natural disasters caused nearly \$110 billion of damage in China last year, a warning to other emerging economies ill-prepared for potential hazards, the United Nations said on Thursday.

A May earthquake in Sichuan and extreme weather made China the most disaster-affected country in economic terms in 2008, said the International Strategy for Disaster

Reduction (ISDR).

The UN body said the world economy suffered a \$181-billion blow from naturally occurring events such as floods, storms, volcanic eruptions, wildfires and droughts in 2008. Much of the devastation was avoidable, said ISDR Director Salvano Briceno.

"These losses could have been substantially reduced if buildings in China, particularly schools and hospi-

tals, had been built to be more earthquake-resistant," he said.

The Sichuan quake and cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar in May made 2008 the most deadly year since 2004.

A total of 235,816 people were killed by disasters in 2008, the ISDR said. The costs were more than double the 2007 economic damages of \$75 billion.

REUTERS

Russia, Georgia must probe war crimes: Report

CONFLICT A leading rights watchdog urged Russia and Georgia on Friday to investigate indiscriminate attacks and human rights violations, including possible war crimes, committed during their war last year.

Human Rights Watch released a report documenting attacks on civilians during the five-day conflict when Russia repelled a Georgian assault on South Ossetia.

They include Georgia's rocket launcher assault on the separatist capital Tskhinvali, alleged ethnic cleansing by South Ossetian forces, Russian bombing of apartment buildings and the use of cluster munitions by both sides.

Russia and former Soviet Georgia deny using excessive force or targeting civilians. South Ossetia's separatist authorities have also denied targeting ethnic Georgians. **REUTERS**

Obama's spy chief pick sees opportunity in Iran

INTELLIGENCE U.S. intelligence agencies should seek ways of working with Islamic leaders and countries such as Iran on issues of mutual interest, President Barack Obama's choice for spy chief said Thursday.

Retired Adm. Dennis Blair also urged a break with the Bush administration intelligence policies in

a Senate hearing for his nomination as director of national intelligence. This includes applying standards across government for humane treatment of terrorism suspects. "Identifying opportunities as well as threats is an extremely important balance for intelligence agencies to strike," he said. **REUTERS**

News in brief

CHURCH Pope Benedict will soon lift the excommunication on four traditionalist bishops, in his latest attempt to heal a 20-year-old schism in the Roman Catholic Church, an Italian paper said on Thursday. In 1998, the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre illegally consecrated four bishops without the requisite permission of the late Pope John Paul. The result was their self-imposed excommunication, or a total cut-off from the Church.

POLITICS Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has signed on with the William Morris Agency which will represent her for books and lecture appearances. It's unlikely that Rice will turn up as a talking head on television, however. The deal includes representation for philanthropic initiatives, as well as business initiatives in media, sports and communications, an agency representative said Thursday. **REUTERS**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Ringling the cellphone alarm

Some data suggests increased brain tumour risk for kids

Marketplace

Wendy Mesley

It's the dream toy of today's kids. Something they can use to play games. Text best friends. Download the latest Jonas Brothers ringtone. And call mom. That's right, kids today want cellphones. A survey we did of 1,000 Canadian tweens shows that almost half of them already have a cellphone.

Parents like the idea, too. Companies are keen to market cellphones as a security tool, a way to stay on top of children's whereabouts. Some even come with GPS tracking.

Today's kids are set to become the longest-term users of cellphones, starting at younger ages than ever before. Great for the phone business, but some scientists are ringing a cautionary

alarm bell.

I've been following the debate about cellphone safety for 15 years. During that time, there have been two huge studies that were supposed to get to the bottom of the question, "Can cellphone radiation cause brain cancer?" The first study was inconclusive, and largely funded by the companies that make phones. I've reported on the fact that most of the research money was spent on public relations, not science, allowing companies to stand behind a wall of inconclusive studies showing phones are safe.

But now, there are cracks in that wall. Results from a second big study are trickling out, and some data suggests there is an increased

risk of brain tumours. Some scientists say that this is cause for concern. Others say the data is flawed.

This isn't fringe science. The new data comes from a World Health Organization study. It's the first of its kind to take a look at what happens when people use cellphones over a long period. The final report was due three years ago, but it still hasn't been released because the scientists involved are deeply divided. And of course the repercussions are huge. Billions of dollars are at stake.

And that's why there is concern about kids. They are a growing cellphone market, and possibly more vulnerable to

cellphone radiation. This year, a Swedish scientist released preliminary data that shows kids who start using phones in their teens have a five times higher risk of developing brain cancer.

In the last two years, warnings about kids using cellphones have been issued in Germany, the U.K., France, Belgium, Israel, Russia, India and Finland. But in Canada? Even though this new evidence is out, Health Canada still says: "there is currently no convincing evidence of serious health effects."

So, until the answer is clear, what should parents do? Cellphones are a useful tool, but kids could limit their use. Make shorter calls. And remember that phones do emit radiation, so try to hold it a few centimetres from your head. Until we know more, a little bit of caution can't hurt anyone.

Wendy Mesley is a co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show, and a regular back-up host with CBC News: The National. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. (9 p.m. NT) on CBC Television.

Views

Aldermen, consider following Obama's lead

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey

It's telling that on his first day in office Barack Obama cut administration salaries and froze others. He sent a message to taxpayers. He felt their pain. "Families are tightening their belts," Mr. Obama said, "and so should Washington."

And maybe so should Calgary. This week, officials are updating the city website with the new aldermanic salaries. This happens as our province lost 16,000 full-time jobs last month, the biggest loss since May 1986.

Everywhere you can feel it. There's the flyer delivered to the door, not for high-end real estate, but pre-approval for a payday loan of \$260. For a hefty fee, I can get a loan when my money runs out before the next paycheck. There's the plunging prices of real estate. And my college students? They report fewer hours granted at their restaurant and retail jobs.

It used to be "how's the job going?" was upbeat Calgary small talk, likely to be full of tales of increased wages, multiple offers or a great family-oriented schedule. When I posed this casual question to a dad on the ski trail last week, he hesitated. His hi-tech company was shutting down. No, it wasn't Nortel.

Which brings us to aldermanic salaries, just raised 5.5

Should Calgary councillors be earning more than 95 per cent of all Canadians?

per cent to \$96,940.73.

Now, I'm not one who thinks elected officials should be poorly compensated. Aldermen work hard, and listen to a litany of complaints. Their jobs are uncertain.

But at \$96,940.73 per year, your alderman is in the top 15 per cent of all income earners in Alberta. That salary is in the top five per cent of all income earners in the nation.

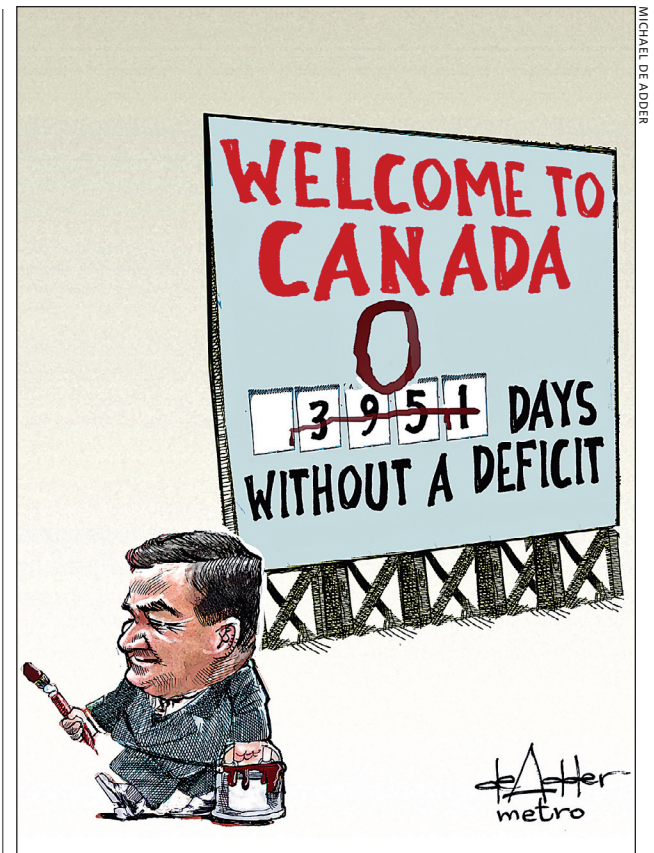
Should Calgary councillors be earning more than 95 per cent of all Canadians, and 85 per cent of Albertans? The salary is based on average weekly earnings from last year, and earnings rarely go down. Though, admittedly, they could.

Aldermen also receive a \$9,600 car allowance and a free parking spot at city hall. For a group that's supposed to champion public transit, and is making it more and more expensive for Calgarians to take transit as well as park downtown, I have one feeble suggestion: Pay for your own car, and market rate for your own parking spot.

Pay for the damage unplowed roads incur to your car. Cozy up to the concerns of your constituents.

The nation's top income earners can surely afford it.

Janice Paskey teaches journalism at Mount Royal College, serves on her community association board and is proud mom to two boys.



Letters

Obama's good looks too good for humour

Re: "Obama too handsome to inspire biting satire, says Belgian news cartoonist," Jan. 21

What great news that, according to this article, satirical political cartoons about Obama will be difficult to make.

However, I'm glad not because of the specific point about Obama, but because I hope this news will reflect and herald increasing worldwide decline of satirical political content.

I've never thought television shows and cartoons that pri-

marily (or even purely) aim to create humour by ridiculing politicians and other figures, while neglecting to provide practical suggestions for change, ever contributed positively to our society in any non-superficial way.

If these cartoonists and humourists constantly believe that politicians mainly serve to be criticized, I suggest that they should try to get elected and enter governments, and show me how competent and skilled they would be in politicians' shoes.

Perhaps it's time to consider closing down this biting satire "industry."

STRATYOS IESKYR,
EDMONTON

Quote of the Day

"I would love for them to be right, but I think they're wide-eyed optimists right now."

— Derek Holt, economist at Scotia Capital reacting to a suggestion by the Bank of Canada that the recession will be harsh, but short-lived.

REUTERS

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Louis Vuitton, Hugo Boss upbeat on Christmas trade

Top European fashion houses Louis Vuitton and Hugo Boss on Thursday said Christmas trading proved robust, sending a comforting message as the retail industry is hit by the worst downturn in decades. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Vacation bookings good, but analysts warn of drop

VACATIONS The desire of Canadians to escape the cold and snow with a March Break getaway has so far trumped concerns about an economic recession — but cracks are beginning to form in the packaged holiday industry.

Flight Centre spokesperson Allison Wallace said this month will be a litmus test when it comes to gauging the outlook for 2009.

"January is traditionally our busiest month for inquiries and bookings and we're up on last year," she said. Analysts, however, say it's a matter of time before

Canadians put the brakes on unnecessary travel.

The threat of slumping demand comes at a particularly bad time for tour operators, which have collectively increased the seats they're selling in the North American market by more than 15 cents this winter, according to analysts.

Market-leader Transat AT, which operates charter carrier Air Transat, reported a 16 per cent jump in sales in the fourth quarter. But analysts say it will be difficult to maintain the trend and are forecasting price drops.

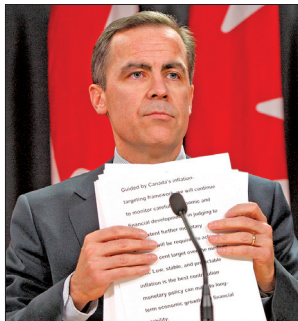
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Swift recovery seen

But top bank says sharp contraction this quarter

The Canadian economy will contract by an exceptionally sharp 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of this year and continue to shrink through mid-year, but the recovery will be swifter than in the past two recessions, the Bank of Canada said Thursday.

Signaling the economy is now in the most dramatic part of the downturn, the central bank said gross domestic product likely shrank by 2.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year and would decline by



CHRIS WATKIE/REUTERS

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney shuffles his papers during a news conference in Ottawa yesterday.

one per cent in the second

quarter of this year before returning to growth.

It said the growing output gap would not be eliminated until mid-2011, but this would be about a year or more faster than in the past, partly because inflation expectations are better anchored and the bank has been able to cut interest rates to lower levels.

Its projections of three quarters of recession this time contrasted with six quarters in 1981-82 and four quarters in the early 1990s.

REUTERS

In brief

RETAIL Canadian retail sales dropped by 2.4 per cent in November from October, the steepest decline in nearly 11 years, and analysts said they expect worse to come as the recession starts to bite harder.

JOBS Microsoft Corp. stunned Wall Street with plans to slash up to 5,000 jobs and a warning that revenue will almost certainly drop over the next two quarters.

RIM PENALTY Canadian regulators are seeking a record penalty as high as \$100 million from the top two executives of Research In Motion, Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis, for their role in a stock-option accounting controversy dating back to 1996.

REUTERS

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Former Dallas Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin, left, is launching a reality TV show in which 12 “football neophytes” will compete for a spot on the Dallas Cowboys’ training camp roster. The Cowboys confirmed that one of their 80 roster spots will go to the show’s winner. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Crosby out of all-star game

NHL Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby has withdrawn from Sunday’s NHL all-star game because of injury, and Tampa Bay’s Martin St. Louis will take his spot on the Eastern Conference roster.

Crosby has been battling a knee injury, which forced him to miss last Friday’s game against Anaheim. Crosby, who was voted a starter for this year’s contest, did not play in last year’s event because of a high ankle sprain. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports in brief

NBA According to a report in the New York Daily News, a deal that would send the Raptors’ Jermaine O’Neal to Miami for Shawn Marion has progressed to the point where the teams have exchanged medical records on the players, usually a precursor to an imminent trade.

NBA Alonzo Mourning has decided to retire rather than mount another NBA comeback at age 38. The seven-time all-star centre said Thursday he won’t return from a devastating leg injury Dec. 19, 2007 — the fourth anniversary of his life-saving kidney transplant.



Alonzo Mourning

SKIING Swiss skier Daniel Albrecht sustained brain and lung injuries and was placed in an induced coma Thursday after crashing during downhill training in Austria.

NHL The Philadelphia Flyers announced Thursday that centre Danny Briere will miss at least a month of action after undergoing an exploratory surgical procedure on his groin/stomach area.

FOOTBALL A Kentucky high school football coach was charged Thursday with reckless homicide in the death of a player who collapsed at practice in August. David Jason Stinson was indicted in the death of Max Gilpin. Stinson was directing practice when the heat index reached 34 C and the 15-year-old collapsed. The player had a temperature of 42 C when he arrived at the hospital, authorities said, and died three days later.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Two girls and one common dream

On opposite ends of the earth, two 16-year-olds are ready to make some noise in the sports world

MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

They live in different worlds, speak different languages and play different sports.

Yet it’s uncanny that Japan’s Eri Yoshida and Canada’s Brigitte Lacquette have so much in common.

Both are 16, both are dominating male opponents and both are attracting excessive attention because of their abilities and potential.

Yoshida is blowing away batters with a remarkable sidearm knuckleball that recently landed her a professional contract in an all-male Japanese baseball league.

She’s being viewed in Japan as a pioneer and a symbol of the changing status of women in her country.

Lacquette is astonishing scouts by thoroughly outplaying male opponents in the Western Manitoba AA Midget Hockey League. She is her league’s top talent.



Eri Yoshida signed a professional contract with a Japanese baseball team.

She was the youngest player at the recent World Under-18 women’s hockey championship in Germany and was chosen best defenceman.

“Several scouts have told me that, if Brigitte continues in the direction she’s going, she’ll be the greatest female hockey player in Canadian history,” said Scott Taylor, sports editor of Grass Roots News, Manitoba’s Aboriginal newspaper.

“She’s one of the few players I’ve seen who can do everything all game with her head up. She’s so fast that she flies by opponents. And she’s a great playmaker.”

Brigitte lives in Mallard, Man. “We’re nowhere,” said her father, Terrence, a Metis who has lived in Mallard his entire life. “Our community has about 80 adults, 40 kids, 20 dogs and 15 cats.”

Still, dozens of universities — including Cornell, Providence, Minnesota and North Dakota — have found her and are bombarding her with expressions of interest.

Brigitte, though, is only 5-5 and so, barring a serious growth spurt, don’t expect her to break the NHL’s sex barrier.

Yoshida, though, has a serious chance to advance to MLB. She’s only five feet but knuckleballers don’t need size or strength. They need only to fool batters.

Venus bounced Down Under

Venus Williams was knocked out of the Australian Open on Thursday, stunned by Spanish player Carla Suarez Navarro in the second round. Suarez Navarro rallied from 5-2 down in the third and saved a match point before beating Williams 2-6, 6-3, 7-5. There was no upset of top seeds Daniel Nestor of Toronto and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia in their first-round doubles match. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Brigitte Lacquette, centre, was named top blueliner at the under-18 women’s hockey championship.

Yoshida recently left a line of nine veteran male batters hitless and baseball types think she could seriously perfect her pitch to major-league calibre.

“She can pitch,” said Yoshihiro Nakada, her manager in the Kansai Independent League. “The media attention we get from her is most welcome, but that’s not why she is on our team. She’s with us because she’s an excellent pitcher.”

Yoshida started pitching in Grade 2, after her father showed her a video of Boston Red Sox knuckleballer Tim Wakefield.

“I’m honoured that she patterned herself after me,” Wakefield was quoted as

saying recently. “I’ve heard great things about her. Apparently, she’s amazing. I wish her the best of luck. Maybe I can learn something from her eventually. Nothing surprises me any more, so I wouldn’t be surprised if she follows in the footsteps of other Japanese pitchers and winds up in the big leagues some day.”

“The world is progressing,” said Machiko Osawa, a professor at Japan Women’s University. “The United States has an African-American president and Eri Yoshida has been accepted in the conservative world of sports.

“These are historical times.”

Koskie wants to make comeback with Team Canada

While several Canadians are either not able or not interested in playing for their country’s team at the World Baseball Classic in March, there’s one who’s quietly been busting his guts for the chance to participate.

In fact, after more than two seasons of inactivity because of post-concussion syndrome, Manitoban **Corey Koskie** is desperately trying to crack Team Canada’s roster for what very

likely would be his last hurrah. Metro has learned the ex-Blue Jays third baseman has an agreement in writing with general manager **Greg Hamilton** that stipulates he’d be added to Team Canada’s 45-man, preliminary roster if he is deemed physically fit by Feb. 1.

“My wife and I have talked lots about this,” Koskie confirmed in an interview, “and we’ve agreed that (playing for Canada) would be a great way to retire.”

Koskie, 35, said he has been working out diligently for months and has received permission from the Minnesota Twins to train at their camp in Fort Myers, Fla., in February if he gets

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca



the green light from Team Canada.

Koskie starred for the Twins from 1998 through 2004. He was the Jays’ marquee free-agent acquisition for 2005 but struggled with injuries and was dealt to Milwaukee after the season. Concussions sidelined him while with the Brewers in 2006 and he had to sit out 2007 and 2008.

Should Koskie crack

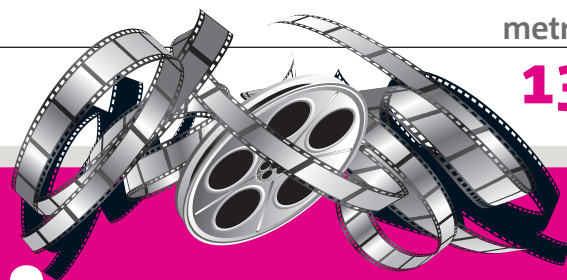
Team Canada’s final, 28-man roster, he’d unlikely play much. Manager Ernie Whitt plans to start the Kansas City Royals’ **Mark Teahen** at third base, the Houston Astros’ **Chris Barnwell** at shortstop, the Washington Nationals’ **Peter Orr** at second and Minnesota’s **Justin Morneau** at first.

• **Doug Berry**, who coached the Blue Bombers to the Grey Cup game in 2007 and was fired by Winnipeg after the 2008 season, is desperately seeking work after the Toronto Argonauts rejected his applications to become their head or assistant coach ... Look for the Argos to acquire quarterback **Kevin Glenn**, at least as a backup to **Kerry**

Joseph, now that new Winnipeg coach **Mike Kelly** intends to trade the veteran ... Despite efforts by Argos co-owner **David Cynamon** to downplay it, **Michael (Pinball) Clemons** is indeed out as the club’s chief shot-caller — as reported here Tuesday — and will take a significant pay cut to stay on in an ambassador role ... The Hamilton Tiger-Cats, meanwhile, have told QB **Casey Printers** he’s not welcome back unless he accepts a pay cut that would reduce his \$450,000-a-year salary to less than \$200,000.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.



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Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Button tops Oscar noms

Pg 14



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button was the big leader at the announcement of this year's Academy Awards, receiving 13 nominations — including best picture, best actor and best adapted screenplay.

movies

Pg 16



Inkheart's screen adaptation pales in comparison to novel

music

Pg 18



New Pornographers frontman goes solo

7th heaven

Pg 21



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14 movies & entertainment

Also opening this week
Underworld: Rise of The Lycans opens in theatres this Friday. As there were no press previews, there will be a review of the film in Monday's edition of Metro.

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Talking Oscars

What the stars are saying about their Academy nominations:



"This is a great honor for the movie, and I'm especially happy for David Fincher, for without him there would be no Ben Button."

— BRAD PITT, BEST ACTOR, THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON
PARAMOUNT STATEMENT

"My wife (Diane Lane) called me. It's her birthday and she said, 'It's the best present I could have gotten.' She sung me a happy nomination birthday song."

— JOSH BROLIN, BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, MILK
PEOPLE.COM

"Working with Clint Eastwood was a reward in itself that will last me a lifetime. It has been an exceptional year for acting, and I am honoured to be in the company of these talented actors whose performances all deserve this recognition."



— ANGELINA JOLIE, BEST ACTRESS
USWEEKLY.COM

"It is such a thrill to be recognized in this category with these remarkably talented women. I was with my parents and my dog when I got the news and we were all overjoyed — although I'm not sure my dog knew what was going on. This is a great day to be an actress!"

— ANNE HATHAWAY, BEST ACTRESS, RACHEL GETTING MARRIED
PEOPLE.COM



"I'm extremely happy to have been nominated. And very fortunate. Playing Hanna Schmitz will always remain one of the biggest challenges I've ever been blessed with."

— KATE WINSLET, BEST ACTRESS, THE READER
PEOPLE.COM



(Clockwise from left) Slumdog Millionaire received 10 nominations, including best picture; Gus van Sant's Milk picked up some major nominations, including best actor for Sean Penn. Anne Hathaway got a best actress nod for Rachel Getting Married; Mickey Rourke was nominated for The Wrestler; and Waltz With Bashir picked up a nomination for best foreign film.

The race begins

Button, Slumdog lead Oscar nominations

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, a drama in which Brad Pitt plays a man who ages backward, led the field of Oscar contenders with 13 nominations, organizers said Thursday.

Slumdog Millionaire, the tale of an impoverished orphan's improbable victory on an Indian television game show, followed with 10, while the Batman sequel The Dark Knight and the gay-rights saga Milk each landed eight.

Benjamin Button, Slumdog Millionaire and Milk will vie for best picture at the 81st annual Academy Awards, alongside The Reader and Frost/Nixon. All five also had best director nominations.

Clint Eastwood's recent box office champ Gran Torino was notably snubbed, with no nominations.

As expected, late Australian actor Heath Ledger was nominated for his supporting role as the villainous Joker in The Dark Knight.

The Dark Knight, the biggest box office smash since Titanic in 1997, had been seen as having an outside shot at a best picture slot but all of its other nominations ended up be-

ing in technical categories.

With 13 nominations, Benjamin Button falls one short of the record shared by All About Eve (1959) and Titanic. Its nominations included best actor for Pitt, best director for David Fincher, best supporting actress for Taraji P. Henson and best adapted screenplay for Eric Roth and Robin Swicord.

Loosely based on a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Benjamin Button has been a commercial and critical success, and will likely combine with The Dark Knight to boost the

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

Oscar's ratings.

In recent years, Academy voters have favored smaller, arthouse pictures and TV viewers stayed away in droves.

"It is a good across-the-board look at movies of the past year," said Sid Ganis, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "I like the list because it is somewhat not as predicted. It goes from little old

Slumdog to big Benjamin Button."

Meryl Streep, 59, already the all-time acting Oscar record holder with 14 nominations, landed her 15th for her lead role in Doubt, in which she plays a vindictive nun.

Other leading films included the animated feature WALL-E with six nominations and Doubt, Frost/Nixon and The Reader with five each.

• The Oscars will be presented Feb. 22 at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood. Australian actor Hugh Jackman will host. **REUTERS**

Ledger's Joker strikes again

NOMINATION Heath Ledger's action movie villain The Joker is getting the last laugh over Hollywood. The Australian actor's best supporting actor Oscar nomination Thursday came exactly a year after he died of an accidental prescription-drug overdose and was a rare exception

to the rule that Oscar voters overlook action hero movies. Not only did Ledger help the Batman sequel The Dark Knight become the biggest movie since Titanic, but he also picked up a slew of awards for his chilling but compelling

role as The Joker.

Thursday's Oscar nomination put Ledger in line for only the second posthumous Academy Award to be handed out to an actor. Peter Finch won for 1976's Network about two months after he suffered a fatal heart attack, aged 60.

"Oscar voters are notorious snobs who turn up their noses at superhero movies. This may be popcorn, but it is gourmet popcorn," said Tom O'Neil, a movie columnist. **REUTERS**

List of nominees

Best Picture

• The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Frost/Nixon; Milk; The Reader; Slumdog Millionaire.

Best Actor

• Richard Jenkins - The Visitor; Frank Langella - Frost/Nixon; Sean Penn - Milk; Brad Pitt - The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Mickey Rourke - The Wrestler.

Best Actress

• Anne Hathaway - Rachel Getting Married; Angelina Jolie - Changeling; Melissa Leo - Frozen River; Meryl Streep - Doubt; Kate Winslet - The Reader.

Best Supporting Actor

• Josh Brolin - Milk; Robert Downey Jr. - Tropic Thunder; Philip Seymour Hoffman - Doubt; Heath Ledger - The Dark Knight; Michael Shannon - Revolutionary Road

Best Supporting Actress
• Amy Adams - Doubt; Penelope Cruz - Vicky Cristina Barcelona; Viola Davis - Doubt; Taraji P. Henson - The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Marisa Tomei - The Wrestler.

Best Director

• David Fincher - The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Ron Howard - Frost/Nixon; Gus Van Sant - Milk; Stephen Daldry - The Reader; Danny Boyle - Slumdog Millionaire

Best Animated Feature

• Bolt; Kung-Fu Panda; WALL-E.

Best Foreign Language Film

• The Baader Meinhof Complex - Germany; The Class - France; Departures - Japan; Revanche - Austria; Waltz with Bashir - Israel

Best Foreign Language Film

• The Baader Meinhof Complex - Germany; The Class - France; Departures - Japan; Revanche - Austria; Waltz with Bashir - Israel

Best Adapted Screenplay

• Eric Roth and Robin Swicord, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; John Patrick Shanley, Doubt; Peter Morgan, Frost/Nixon; David Hare, The Reader; Simon Beaufoy, Slumdog Millionaire.

Best Original Screenplay

• Courtney Hunt, Frozen River; Mike Leigh, Happy-Go-Lucky; Martin McDonagh, In Bruges; Dustin Lance Black, Milk; Andrew Stanton, Jim Reardon and Pete Docter, "WALL-E."

Original Score

• The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Alexandre Desplat; Defiance, James Newton Howard; Milk, Danny Elfman; Slumdog Millionaire, A.R. Rahman; WALL-E, Thomas Newman.

• More nominees at metronews.ca

Correction

The Uninvited opens in theatres across Canada on Jan. 30, not this Friday. An incorrect date appeared in Wednesday's issue of Metro.

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Star pair about Town

Zellweger, Connick Jr. dish on rom-com

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



"I refuse to be upstaged by Mother Nature!" shouted actor-musician Harry Connick Jr. in a rattling West Hollywood hotel room recently. See, together with co-star Renée Zellweger, he was promoting their latest movie when a California earthquake suddenly struck.

Only it didn't. After a few minutes and some nervous laughs, everyone realized the vibrations were in fact, due to some aggressive machinery on the floor below and indeed not Mother Nature.

Still, if nothing else, the impromptu moment gave us all a glimpse into the type of unrehearsed levity the pair had just experienced making their latest romantic-comedy *New In Town* — in theatres next Friday.

"The prospect of working



Renée Zellweger plays an executive who goes to Minnesota to shut down a plant in the romantic comedy *New In Town*.

with Renée and the idea I had about working with her (was what) really made me want to do it," says Connick Jr., before joking dryly: "Unfortunately none of the things I thought would happen happened, but still the idea of it was great."

The story of an ambitious executive (Zellweger) who

temporarily relocates to Minnesota to shut down a plant run by a rugged union boss (Connick Jr.), *New In Town* was actually filmed in Winnipeg last year during a record-breaking cold snap. Like the earthquake-that-wasn't, the cast refused to let Mother Nature dampen their spirits.

Movie feature

"I don't think there was a day when we weren't laughing until our eyelids were frozen together from tears," said Zellweger, adding that such extreme weather may have actually helped bond the group.

As for living in Manitoba over the winter, Zellweger was happy to remain "new in town" herself and admits, like her character, she too lacks a certain doggedness to reside in climates where the temperature is low and the snow is deep.

"The tenacity of the people was just so impressive. To me, when you look outside, you think, 'where's the road? I guess there's no driving today?' but that's not the case," said a surprised Zellweger. "Everybody just gets up and gets on with it like it's normal."

Twilight actress off to Adventureland

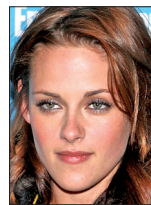
FEATURE Vampire romance *Twilight* hurtled Kristen Stewart to the kind of fame that can turn a life into a roller coaster ride, so it seems appropriate that her new movie revolves around an amusement park.

Adventureland, which premiered this week at the Sundance Film Festival, is one of a string of quirky movies Stewart, 18, has starred-in since her first film at age 11.

But none of those movies ever brought the actress the sort of attention she has received the last two months since *Twilight* struck gold at box offices with more than \$324 million US worldwide since its November debut.

In the movie, Stewart portrayed Bella Swan, a love-struck teen adored by millions of young girls after they began devouring the series of books on which the movie is based.

Stewart is a child of Hollywood — the daughter of



Kristen Stewart

a stage manager and a script supervisor — and her Los Angeles upbringing provided a close up view of fame that

has helped her handle the three-ring media circus of Hollywood celebrity.

"I grew up on a set," she told Reuters at Sundance. "I don't take it as seriously, and then at the same time I take it more seriously than anyone. It's like a balance."

Adventureland is a coming-of-age movie about a recent college graduate named James, played by *The Squid and the Whale* star Jesse Eisenberg, who takes a summer job at an amusement park and falls in love with a tortured but sincere young carnival worker named Em Lewin (Stewart).

REUTERS

"FOUR PAWS UP!"

KCLV-TV (LAS VEGAS) JEFFREY K. HOWARD

The New York Times

STEPHEN HOLDEN

"CUTER-THAN-CUTE, SWEETER-THAN-SWEET!"



HOTEL FOR DOGS

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DREAMWORKS PICTURES

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 23 TO THURS., JAN. 29. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS

Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail,
403-670-5444

Listings not available at press time.

CROWFOOT CROSSING

91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:25-6:45-9:30
Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7:15-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin But-ton (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-4:15-8
Defiance (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-6:50-10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-7:10-10:05 Wed 4-7:10-10:05 Thu 1-4-7:10-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:45-7:10-15 Wed 3:45-7:10-15 Thu 12:40-3:45-7:10-15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:30-9:20
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:50
Larger Than Life (STC) Wed 7
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice - Gluck (STC) Sat 11
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:30-7:20-10:10
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:50-10:20
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:25
Yes Man (14A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:20-7:05-9:55 Wed 1:30-4:20-9:55 Thu 1:30-4:20-7:05-9:55

EAU CLAIRE MARKET

200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

The Curious Case of Benjamin But-ton (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 7:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:10-3-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
The Reader (18A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:35-3-35-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-3-20-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3-10-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS

388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491
Bedtime Stories (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:05-7
Bride Wars (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:05-6:40-9:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin But-ton (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-4-8
Defiance (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-10
Frost/Nixon (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:10-10
Gran Torino (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:55-7:15-10:05
Hotel for Dogs (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-2:55-6:50-9:20
Inkheart (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:45-7:10-9:45-10:05
Last Chance Harvey (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:35
Marley & Me (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-3:15-6:35
My Bloody Valentine 3D (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:40-4:15-7:30-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:40-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 1:40-4:15-7:30-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:40-4:15-10:15
Notorious (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:20-10:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3-6:55-9:40
Revolutionary Road (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:25-7:15-10:05
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:20-10:10
Twilight (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:30
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4-30-7:40-10:15
The Wrestler (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-7:25-10:05
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 5

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL

100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470
Bedtime Stories (G) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:15-9:40
Bride Wars (PG) DTS Digital, Stadium



Christian Bale stars in The Dark Knight, which is currently in theatres.

Seating Fri-Thu 1-3-20-7:10-9:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin But-ton (PG) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:3:45-7:45
Frost/Nixon (PG) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:50-9:50
Gran Torino (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7-10
Inkheart (PG) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-6:40-9:20
Marley & Me (PG) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:30-9:15
My Bloody Valentine 3D (18A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:30-10:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4-7:20-9:45
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4-30-7:40-10:15

GLOBE CINEMA

617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Defiance (14A) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat 12:50-3:25-6:50-9:25 Sun 12:50-3:25-7:25 Mon-Thu 7:25
Last Chance Harvey (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:15-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

MOVIEDOME

1039 999 36 St., 403-248-2000

Chandni Chowk to China (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-8:30
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4-7-9:50
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40
Raaz: The Mystery Continues (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:45
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Thu 9:55

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK

6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 1:15
Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin But-ton (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri 12-3:30-7-10:15 Sat-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:15
Defiance (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-7-10:05
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:15-10:15
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:50-9:30

Inkheart (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:20-10
Larger Than Life (STC) Wed 7
Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:05-4:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:10
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice - Gluck (STC) Sat 11
My Bloody Valentine 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Notorious (18A) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:15-10:20
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:20 Thu 4:20-7:25-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Slumdog Millionaire (14A) No Passes Fri 1-4-7:25-10:25 Sat-Wed 1-4-7:25-10:25 Thu 4-7:25-10:25 Star & Strollers Thu 1
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 12:25-3:35-7:10-10:15 Wed 12:25-3:35-10:15 Thu 12:25-3:35-7:10-10:15
The Unborn (14A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:30-7:25-10:25 Wed 1:20-4:30-10:25 Thu 1:20-4:30-7:25-10:25
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5-7:30-10:30
The Wrestler (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:05-10:10
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 6
Yes Man (14A) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:35-10:05

PLAZA THEATRE

1133 Kensington Rd., 403-283-3636

Animation for Global Transformation (STC) Wed 7
Antonio Gaudi (G) Sat-Sun 5:45
I've Loved You So Long (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:25-3:35-7:15-9:30 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:30 Wed 9:30 Thu 7:15-9:30
World's Best Commercials 2008 (STC) Fri 5:30 Sat-Sun 11:45 Mon-Tue 5:30 Thu 5:30

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM

2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:35-7:30
Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-7:05-9:35
The Curious Case of Benjamin But-ton (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:55-8
Defiance (14A) Fri-Tue 12:05-3:10-6:30-9:45 Wed 3:45-6:30-9:45 Thu 12:05-3:10-6:30-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3-6:40-9:15
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Tue 1-3:45-7:25-10:10 Wed 3:45-7:25-10:10 Thu 1-3:45-7:25-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Love Me Again (in Filipino) (STC) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:35-9:20
Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:25-6:45-9:40 Sun 12:30-3:25-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:45-9:40
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice - Gluck (STC) Sat 11

My Bloody Valentine 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:55-9:30
Notorious (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:50-7:10-10:15

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:55-7:35-10:05
The Unborn (14A) Fri 1:05-3:30-7:20-10 Sat 3:30-7:20-10 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:30-7:20-

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1. Performing This Week ... Live At Ronnie Scott's, Jeff Beck, right; 2. Slumdog Millionaire, Original Soundtrack; 3. Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog, Various; 4. Fleet Foxes, Fleet Foxes; 5. Hit Man: Various. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

A.C. Newman guilty as charged

The New Pornographers frontman turns up the volume on his new solo album

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada



Don't worry if A.C. Newman's solo career confuses you. Usually, when a frontman for a successful band — in this case Vancouver's The New Pornographers — releases a solo album, it often sounds much different from the guy's day job. But not so with Newman, whose rich, Beach Boys-like pop stylings appears on everything he touches. Plus, to him, every record he releases comes from the same place.

"I think Get Guilty is a louder record than Chal-

lengers is," says Newman, comparing his latest solo effort to his last New Pornographers record in the same breath. "I think I'm always trying to change it up, it doesn't matter whether it's a Pornographers album or not."

Clearly, he doesn't view his New Pornographers-self as separate from his solo career. And, while Neko Case and Dan Bejar aren't singing on Get Guilty — Newman's second album sans super-group — it's still got the same harmony laden tracks and sunny upbeat vibe that's made the now New York-based song-

writer's band what it is.

So, if his own material isn't that different from his band's music, why put out a solo album at all? "There is no really good reason for it," he says. "I just do it because I can."

Newman points out that he wrote his first album — 2004's *Slow Wonder* — after thinking The New Pornographers were breaking up. Neko Case decided to embark on her own solo career, which meant his band wasn't touring. Instead of waiting around, he recorded *Slow Wonder* during the time off.

This time, however, *Get Guilty*, was written so he



A.C. Newman, frontman for The New Pornographers, has released a new solo album.

could "record the next New Pornographers record with a clean start in my head.

"I wrote it as kind of a palate cleaning," he explains further. "It's hard to describe, but for some reason, at the end of making *Challengers*, I decided I was going to write a solo record. There's one song on the disc that I started writing while the Pornographers were mixing. I left the studio and played it in to my phone."

As he's talking Newman, again, wonders aloud why he decided to record another solo album, as if he just realized that it's somewhat redundant. "There's

not really any logic to this," he remarks. "I guess it seemed to soon do another Pornos record."

But, logistically, it did make more sense for him to create a non-NP album, considering who else is releasing a record this year.

"I wanted to make sure the Pornos and Neko don't put out records near each other," he says, finally hitting on the most rational explanation for releasing a solo album. "If this had been a Pornographers record it would have been out in January and Neko's record would have been out two months later. She can feel free to stomp all over my solo album, but

the Pornos and Neko shouldn't conflict with each other."

TOP 10 MOBILE DOWNLOADS

- 1 Heartless Kanye West
- 2 Poker Face Lady GaGa
- 3 I'm So Proud Akon
- 4 Live Your Life T.I. ft. Rihanna
- 5 Right Now Akon
- 6 Single Ladies Beyoncé
- 7 Love Story Taylor Swift
- 8 Hot N Cold Katy Perry
- 9 Rock N' Roll Train AC/DC
- 10 Circus Britney Spears

rogers.com/musicstore



Metro recommends

• NOTORIOUS, ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK:

Biggie-sized soundtrack features classic tracks, a duet with his son, a tribute from Jay-Z and early demos.



• A.C. NEWMAN, GET GUILTY:

New Pornographers frontman explores the more elaborate facets of his power pop sound with tinges of psychedelia.



• KETCH HARBOUR WOLVES, DEAD CALM HORIZON:

Refined indie-rock soaked in harmonies and sweeping layers of lush instrumentation.



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This Day In Music History

On this day in 1989 James Brown is sentenced in Georgia to six years in jail in connection with a police chase through two different states. **REUTERS**



Kat Von D puts pen to paper

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada



Getting a tattoo? Whatever you do, don't copy your favourite celebrities.

It's among the handy tips of tattooing dos and don'ts to be found in Kat Von D's new book, *High Voltage Tattoo*, a photo-driven compendium of one of the world's most notorious tattoo artist's previous work, artistic influences and childhood memories. The star of TLC show *L.A. Ink* and partner of Mötley Crüe bassist Nikki Sixx delves into the often misunderstood world of tattoo art and the stories behind her markings and those of her best friends and previous clients.

"It was a long time coming," says Von D (nee Katherine Von Drachenberg). "The show educates people about the tattoo world and the book is a more in-depth personal look at it."

The Los Angeles-based tattoo artist and soon to be film star (appearing in 2009 vampire flick *The Bleeding*) has tattooed celebrities such as Jack-ass' Steve-O and Bam Margera among others. She showcases designs as elaborate and dynamic as something found in an art museum, from reproductions of Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* on the side of a torso, to more comedic works. Her personal favourites are two portraits of a friend's grandparents. Over the grandfather lies a banner saying, "Mona, get me a

Fresh ink

• High Voltage Tattoo is the new book from Kat Von D.



beer!" The grandmother's depiction replies, "Get it yourself!"

"Tattoos are a collaborative thing," the 26 year old says. "The dynamic between artist and client is a pretty free one. The client comes in with an idea and they create a vision together. The idea is always rooted with a client and a good tattooer will take it and make it better."

The world of tattoos isn't all wild rock 'n' roll abandon, however. Von D says she's taken sharp criticism from purists in the business who accuse her of "selling out."



PHOTO COURTESY HIGH VOLTAGE TATTOO

Kat Von D, from head to toe

What: Stars

Location: Face

Story: When Kat Von D was married, her husband told her to stop getting her face tattooed. So, she added seven stars to her face.

What: "Hollywood" tattoo written in lipstick

Location: Stomach

Story: Kat did this as an homage to one of her favourite bands, the New York Dolls.

What: Kat's "I Love You" tattoo

Location: Right shoulder

Story: Kat told Nikki Sixx to write her a love letter. Sixx responded by tattooing this note on her shoulder.

What: "Mi Vida Loca" tattoo

Location: Back

Story: Spanish for "my crazy life," Kat got this tattoo on Cinco De Mayo in 2004 after drinking a bottle of tequila.

someone's skin can also demand a great deal of strength and stamina. Von D points to Dec 14, 2007, where she set a Guinness World Record for doing the most tattoos in a 24-hour period by tattooing more than 400 arms, backs, legs and rear ends. "I just crashed for a whole day when I was done," she said.

It's no cakewalk for a recipient, either. You'll sit in a chair in uncomfortable circumstances for a period of time, so Von D suggests you have a fair idea of what you want done.

"The best advice I'd give anyone getting a tattoo for the first time would be to have a 100 per cent certain idea of what you want to get and not to get something because Nicole Richie has it," she said. "And don't get it because your boyfriend wants you to. And do your research: There's a lot of talent out there that nobody knows about."

Embracing Soviet technology

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

Franz Ferdinand singer Alex Kapranos looks pretty sharp for a man who, not 12 hours earlier, was in the middle of a sweaty club gig as part of a barnstorming promo ride for the group's third album. Drummer Paul Thomson isn't quite as chipper, although that can be attributed to a metabolism that doesn't process caffeine quite as efficiently. He perks up. Eventually.

After two albums in 18 months, it's been three years since the group's last album. So, what took so long? "Making this new record was different. The time it took wasn't so much a luxury as a necessity," sighs Kapranos.

"The adrenaline just runs out," offers Thomson.

There's been a substantial amount of fan speculation on the sound and direction of Tonight: Franz Ferdinand. Were the spiky,



Tonight: Franz Ferdinand is set for release its next week.

dual-tempo arrangements thrown in the bin? Was it going to have African influences? Or had it all gone Jamaican dub?

"There are elements to truth to all those things," Kapranos says. "We listened to African music and Dan Carey, our producer, comes from a dub background. But it's still a Franz Ferdinand record. I mean, I listen to Dizzy Gillespie, but it doesn't mean we're going to make a be-bop record."

Well, maybe, but Domino — FF's U.K. label — is going to put out a special version of the album mixed in a dub style. Kapranos and Thomas say it's an experiment. The version of the album that most people will hear features experiments of its own, including the use of a long-forgotten Soviet-era synthesizer called a Polyvox.

"It was another case of re-

verse engineering where the Soviets went, 'Right, we can build our own version of these (things)' — and would get it kind of wrong," explain Kapranos. "But their 'kind of wrong' is 'kind of good.' And it's true with the Polyvox. There was an electronic engineer in Kiev, I think, and he wanted to build a Moog (a U.S.-built synth).

"He knew the theory of how a Moog was built and had heard what they sounded like but had never seen one. So he built this machine that looks like the control panel of a Soviet tank, with big knobs and dials Cyrillic labels everywhere. And it sounds ... kind of vaguely like a Moog — but not really. It just sounds ... cool."

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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Television

Warning: 2009 Oscars promise to be a snooze

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

RED CARPET BLUES: The awards season culminates next month in the Oscars, the worst show ever that millions of people watch with what we can only assume is the hope that a celebrity will embarrass themselves with a blubbing acceptance speech that bares their pitiful insecurity for all the world to see.

Actually, the conventional wisdom is that people watch the interminable movie awards ceremony to see a film they enjoyed win, with the corollary effect that the highest-rated Os-

"Nominations for the Oscars were announced (and) absent was The Dark Knight, a film whose massive box office clearly inspired reverse esteem in the Academy's voters."

cars are the ones where a blockbuster like Titanic or a Lord Of The Rings film does a sweep. If this is true — and there's more than enough evidence to assume that it is — then Marc Caro of the Chicago Tribune is right and ABC will be taking a bath on its broadcast this year.

Nominations for the Oscars were announced yesterday, and conspicuously absent was The Dark Knight, a film whose massive box office clearly inspired reverse esteem in the Academy's voters. Only a posthumous nod for Heath Ledger's Joker as Best Supporting Actor put The Dark

Knight in any of the top categories, though it's well-represented in the technical categories (art direction, cinematography, sound mixing and editing,) when viewers usually get their pizza delivery.

Continuing a trend that's dominated the Oscars for a few years now, the films with the most high-profile nominations are either critical duds, box office underperformers — or both. "The Reader is a best picture (and director) nominee, and The Dark Knight is not," writes Caro with obvious disbelief. "Yes, the highbrow Holocaust film with lukewarm reviews is in the game!"

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

Even the best song category won't pull in viewers, as voters swatted away the chance to have Bruce Springsteen, Miley Cyrus, Beyoncé or even Clint Eastwood perform in favour of Peter Gabriel doing the credits song from Wall-E (i.e. the cue to head for the exits) and no less than two songs from Slumdog Millionaire, which will at least mean some Bollywood production values. It's at times like this that network executives outdo Hugo Chavez in their contempt for fickle, ungovernable democracy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Rick's TV Picks

Battlestar Galactica

Air date: Jan. 23
Network: Space

Cancer, depression, demoralization, rebellion, cuckoldry; it's another happy hour on the non-stop party spaceship as the show picks up speed for the final stretch. **SPOILER ALERT:** At least no one dies.

Confessions of a Teen Idol

Air date: Jan. 25
Network: MuchMoreMusic

YOU might have heard of at least three of the seven men making a second

lunge for fame in this VH1 reality show hosted by Scott Baio. One of them won't be the guy from the first season of The Real World.

Project Runway Canada

Air date: Jan. 27
Network: Global

THE Canadian franchise of the fashion reality show gets upgraded from Slice to the mother network for its second season. If nothing else, the show has done the nation a service by proving at least our fashion designers can be bitchy on a global standard.

—RICK MCGINNIS/
METRO CANADA

**CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR
SHOWS' AIR TIMES**

Reality TV nets labour win

TELEVISION Several major U.S. TV networks and the producers of such reality shows as Trading Spouses and The Bachelor have agreed to pay over \$4 million to settle two lawsuits claiming violations of California wage rules.

The settlement will benefit more than 400 workers who were part of the three-year-old class-action cases, and some of those individuals stand to reap tens of thousands of dollars, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, Emma Leheny, said. **REUTERS**

"BREATH TAKING"

Come see this award winning, one woman play hailed by the San Francisco Online Daily News as

Boston Globe

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Juno Awards coming to St. John's N.L.

The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) along with broadcast partner, CTV, announced that St. John's, N.L., will host the 2010 Juno Awards. METRO NEWS SERVICES

movies&entertainment 21

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now


1 Bruce Springsteen
As the new boss — Barack Obama, that is — settles down in his job, the real Boss returns to business with this presciently titled album, Working on a Dream. With the U.S. finally getting a little love from the rest of the world, Springsteen's majestic slice of Americana might just be the soundtrack to the renewed romance.



2 Amy Winehouse
The velvet-throated train-wreck is still keeping us on our toes. Has she found a new love? Will hubby Blake Fielder-Civil dump her? Has she really cleaned up, as claimed by daddy dear? Stack up the popcorn and stay tuned.



3 Slumdog Millionaire
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button might be the Oscar frontrunner, but Slumdog's still the popular puppy. This rags-to-riches tale set in the unrelenting backdrop of Mumbai will probably be the most fun you'll have at the theatres now. The 10 Academy nods don't hurt either.



4 Heineken
Women have the walk-in closet. And, now thanks to this Dutch commercial, men have the walk-in beer cooler. YouTube it and watch it yourself.

5 Honda Insight
Gearheads went all gooey over this revamped hybrid when it was recently unveiled at the Detroit and Montreal auto shows. Claiming to be the cheapest of its kind (pundits are betting on \$19,000), the Insight may just make green driving affordable.

6 Washington D.C.
Has the hub of world power ever looked this sexy? Granted, you may never catch a glimpse of the O-Man himself but with free entries to most major attractions in the city, this is the place to go with the paltry travel budget the recession will allow.



7 Obama books
Want to see beyond the charismatic smile and the fiery speeches? Here are five books that will get you up to date about the new U.S. president:

- The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming The American Dream/Barack Obama: A vision for the future in his own words. A must-read.
- Dreams from my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance/Barack Obama: A personal take on his own life, with charming insights into his mixed heritage and how that made him the man that he is today. And more.

Mix of Six

Marilyn: Forever Blonde

When Fri. 7 p.m. Sat. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.
Where Glenbow Museum
This one-woman play featuring Sunny Thompson as Marilyn Monroe is a re-creation of Monroe's last photo session.

Festival of Animated Objects

When All weekend
Where See animatedobjects.ca
Inanimate objects are brought to life in this celebration of puppetry and masks, taking place throughout the city in venues like the Art Gallery of Calgary and Vertigo Theatre.

Theory of a Deadman

When Fri. and Sun. 8 p.m.
Where Flames Central
Check out B.C.'s Theory of a Deadman. They play two shows at Flames Central to promote their third album Scars & Souvenirs. For tickets, call Ticketmaster.

An Inspector Calls

When Sat. at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m.
Where Vertigo Theatre
Can you solve a mystery? Vertigo Mystery Theatre puts you to the test with their latest production, An Inspector Calls, set in post-war Britain.

Frankenstein

When Fri. at 7:30 p.m., Sat. at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Where Max Bell Theatre
See eight actors portray 40 characters in Frankenstein, a dark comic storybook brought to life by Edmonton's highly acclaimed Catalyst theatre.

Gladiators of the North

When Sat. at 7 p.m.
Where Telus Convention Centre
Canadian boxers face off against fighters from Japan and Korea in a Muay Thai event on Saturday. For tickets call 403-244-8424.

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	
1/23/09	primetime	243 317 3	CFCN etalk	Hollywood	Raising the Bar (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		News (N)	
		- - 4	OMNI Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia	
		- 371 5	KXLY 4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Wife Swap		Supernanny (N)		20/20	
		245 306 6	CBRT Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	Montreal Canadiens-100 Years		CBC News: The National		The Hour	
		244 338 7	CICT ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)		Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)		News Hour	
		246 - 8	CKAL Law & Order: SVU		Man Tracker		Survivorman		Crusoe		Your City	
		- 372 12	KREM News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		NUMB3RS	
		- 374 14	KSPS NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Being Served	Vicar of Dibley	
		- 370 16	KHQ News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Howie Do It (N)		Howie Do It (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)		Dateline NBC
		- 373 22	KAYU The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		News (N)	
news	502 390 15	CBC CBC News: The National	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		fifth estate			
	500 500 29	CNN Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360			
	501 391 52	CTV CTV Newsnet	News		CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News		
sports	400 400 21	TSN (6:30) NBA Basketball	Toronto Raptors at Chicago Bulls.			SportsCentre		Tennis Australian	Open -- Early Round -- Day 6. (Live)			
	408 418 27	net World Cup Skiing Alpine.	FSN Pro Football Preview		Hockey Central		Flames Week		Sportsnet Connected			
family	552 543 20	YTV iCarly	Prank Patrol	Scorpion	Raise Your Voice ** (2004, Drama)		Hilary Duff, Oliver James.					
	557 541 39	FAM Zoey 101	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Camp Rock (2008, Musical Comedy)				Jumanji ** (1995, Fantasy)			
cable variety	- - 18	CHTV The Insider (N)	E News	Party Monsters: Cabo		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)		
	603 561 25	FOOD Kylie Kwong	Gourmets	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Challenge		Kylie Kwong		
	615 520 26	A&E CSI: Miami (HDTV)	The Beast (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami			
	617 522 32	SHOW Wife Swap	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's Inquest		Testees	Kenny-Spenny		Webdreams		
	520 505 35	DISC Man vs. Wild "Sahara"	Deranged Ted Bundy. (N)		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild "Sahara"		Project Earth			
	628 584 43	SPIKE CSI: NY (HDTV)	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: NY "On the Job"		MANswers		MANswers	GameTrailers		
	522 516 45	HIST Urban Legends	Urban Legends	NCIS "Suspicion"		Shockwave		Urban Legends	Urban Legends	Ax Men		
	581 566 102	MTV Romance	The City		The City	City Live After	Girls-Latitude	The Real World		The City		

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00					
1/24/09	243	317	3	CFCN	W-FIVE-Swans		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: NY "Admissions"	News (N)				
	-	-	4	OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin		La Lingerie (2008, Romance-Comedy)		Stephy Tang, J.J. Jia.		Trendy Zone	Word for Word	Chinese Rest.			
	-	371	5	KXLY	News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		Lost "Destiny Calls"		Lost "Because You Left; The Lie"					
	245	306	6	CBRT	NHL Hockey	Montreal Canadiens-100 Years		Pearl Harbor ** (2001, War)		Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, Kate Beckinsale.						
	244	338	7	CICT	Global Currents: Thin Ice		Zero Hour		Mob Stories		Go Deep					
	246	-	8	CKAL	Without a Trace		Less-Kind		Kaya	Tornado Warning (2002, Suspense)		Gerald McRaney.	The City Show			
	-	372	12	KREM	News (N)	Scrubs	Paid Program	Paid Program	Game Show	Game Show	CSI: NY "Admissions"		48 Hr. Mystery			
	-	374	14	KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December		Time Goes By		(9:05) Pat and Mike *** (1952, Comedy), Aldo Ray		Johnny Cash			
	-	370	16	KHQ	College Basketball		CSI: NY "Cool Hunter"		Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		Figure Skating: U.S. Championships					
	-	373	22	KAYU	House "Sex Kills"		Two/Half Men		Two/Half Men		Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted	News (N)		
news	502	390	15	CBC	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Doc Zone (HDTV)		Sat. Report		Fortune	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Doc Zone		
	500	500	29	CNN	Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Newsroom		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley			
sports	501	391	52	CTV	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie		News		CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News			
	400	400	21	TSN	(6:30) 2009 Crashed Ice		Tennis Australian Open -- Round of 16. From Melbourne, Australia. (Live)									
family	408	418	27	net	World Combat		UFC Primetime		UFC 74: Respect		Couture takes on Gonzaga.		Saturday Night Poker	Sportsnet Con.		
	552	543	20	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	Kid vs. Kat	Team Galaxy		Team Galaxy		Zixx Level	Storm Hawks	Naruto	Bleach	Ghost	
	557	541	39	FAM	Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven		Zoey 101		Life Derek		Han. Montana		Something's Gotta Give *** (2003)	
cable variety	-	-	18	CHTV	Chef School		E News		A Life Interrupted (2007, Docudrama)		Lea Thompson.		Show Yours	G-Spot	E News	
	603	561	25	FOOD	Top Chef		Good Eats		Hell's Kitchen		The F Word		Top Chef Restaurants.			
	615	520	26	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Beast (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami			
	617	522	32	SHOW	NUMB3RS (HDTV)		Mutant X		Every Second Counts (2008, Drama)		Stephen Collins.		X-Men: Last			
	520	505	35	DISC	Destroyed		Time Warp		Criss Angel Mindfreak		Guinea Pigs		Guinea Pig	Destroyed	Time Warp	Criss Angel
	628	584	43	SPIKE	Ultimate Fighting Championship 91:		Couture vs. Lesnar (HDTV) (N)				UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed			
	522	516	45	HIST	Ax Men "The Final Haunt"		NCIS "Light Sleeper"		Ancestors		Ancestors		Boogie Nights *** (1997, Drama)			
	581	566	102	MTV	MTV News		Girls-Latitude		Cribs		Cribs		Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live	

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00		
primetime	1/25/09	243 317 3	CFCN Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Mentalist (HDTV)		The Bourne Supremacy *** (2004, Suspense)				News (N)		
		- - 4	OMNI Without a Trace		King	King	Bollywood Boulevard		Where Shall I Go		Chardi Kalaa		
		- 371 5	KXLY News	Basketball	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition				"Tutwiler Family" (N)	Housewives	
		245 306 6	CBRT The Week the Women Went			Miss Marple - The Moving Finger (2006, Mystery)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		fifth estate	
		244 338 7	CICT 16:9 Picture	King of the Hill	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)		
		246 - 8	CKAL Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Tomorrow Never Dies *** (1997, Action)				Pierce Brosnan.	Most Amazing		Reviews	
		- 372 12	KREM News (N)			60 Minutes		Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		Loving Leah (2009, Romance)			
		- 374 14	KSPS Canada's War in Colour			Nature (HDTV) (N) (DVS)		Masterpiece Classic (N)		Egalité for All		Mystery!	
		- 370 16	KHQ News	Best Sports	Dateline NBC		The Last Templar (2009, Adventure)						
		- 373 22	KAYU House "Clueless"			Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)	
news	502 390 15	CBC CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	Chicago 10 *** (2007, Documentary), Dylan Baker									CBC News: Sunday Night	Chicago 10
	500 500 29	CNN Larry King Live	Newsroom									D.L. Hughley Breaks the News	Newsroom
	501 391 52	CTV CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie	News		CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News			
family sports	400 400 21	TSN Boxing	World Extreme Cagefighting (HDTV)						SportsCentre	NFL Films	Wtr. X-Games		
	408 418 27	net Skiing	World Combat		UFC 74: Respect				Couture takes on Gonzaga.	Sportsnet Connected	Poker		
family	552 543 20	YTV Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over ** (2003, Adventure), Alexa Vega					Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Adrenaline Proj		
	557 541 39	FAM Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	Snow Dogs ** (2002, Comedy), Sisco					
cable variety	- - 18	CHTV Red Carpet Special: SAG	15th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards						Inside Hollywood		FANatical		
	603 561 25	FOOD Iron Chef America	The Next Food Network Star				The Heat	The Heat	Challenge		Iron Chef Am.		
	615 520 26	A&E CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)				The Beast (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)				CSI: Miami	
	617 522 32	SHOW TBA	Trailer Park	The Guard (HDTV)				New Waterford Girl *** (1999, Comedy)		Damages			
	520 505 35	DISC (6) Apocalypse How	MythBusters Sayings. (N)				Anthony Bourdain		Apocalypse How				
	628 584 43	SPIKE Disorderly Conduct: Video	Afro Samurai "Afro Samurai: Resurrection" (HDTV) (N)						Afro Samurai	Afro Samurai	Afro Samurai		
	522 516 45	HIST Inside the Vietnam War	Inside the Vietnam War				Inside the Vietnam War		Hamburger Hill ** (1987, War)				
	581 566 102	MTV Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	After	Girls-Latitude	Made "Pop Singer"		Cribs		

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Mendes is most desirable woman, says poll
Eva Mendes has been named the most desirable woman of 2009 by AskMen.com, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Spirit actress topped a poll of men who were asked to name their ideal woman. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

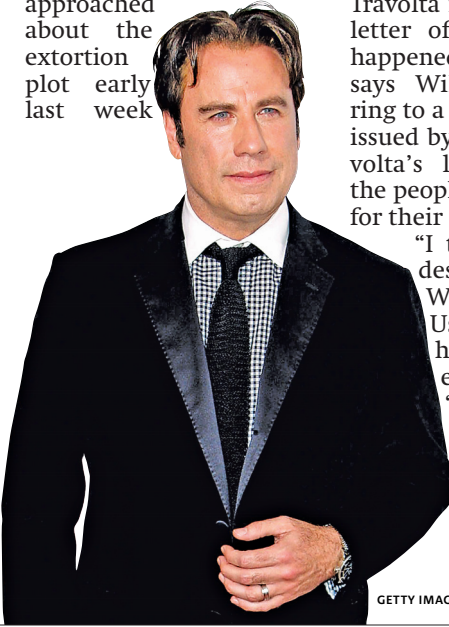
Celebrity Buzz

Police investigate extortion attempt

INVESTIGATION Police in the Bahamas have launched an investigation surrounding an attempt to extort money from John Travolta's family, Obie Wilchcombe, a member of the Bahamian Parliament, confirmed to Us-magazine.com. The full details of the plot have not been released, but Us magazine quotes Wilchcombe as saying only one person — not two, which has been reported — is involved. A Bahamian newspaper, The Tribune, has suggested that the extortion attempt is connected to the recent loss of 16-year-old Jett Travolta, who died of a seizure disorder Jan. 2 at the family's vacation home in the Bahamas. Wilchcombe denied reports that the person be-

hind the plot is a politician. "The lawyer who brought the situation to my attention is a politician," he clarifies. Wilchcombe says he was approached about the extortion plot early last week

and passed along the information to Travolta's lawyers, Michael Ossi and Michael McDermott, us-magazine.com adds. "The irony was that the Travolta family just sent a letter of gratitude — it happened that afternoon," says Wilchcombe, referring to a Jan. 12 statement issued by McDermott, Travolta's lawyer, thanking the people of the Bahamas for their support. "I thought it was a despicable act," Wilchcombe tells Us when he first heard news of the extortion plot. "One person should not destroy the character of the country."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Depp's partner returns engagement ring

RELATIONSHIP Johnny Depp's long-term partner Vanessa Paradis has returned an engagement ring he bought her, people.com reports. The Pirates of the Caribbean star was recently spotted shopping for the band in California, but Vanessa — who he has been with for 10 years — reportedly took it back as she was unhappy with the design. A source said: "Johnny got Vanessa a drop-dead gorgeous engagement band but she returned it to the jeweller. She wants her ring to be absolutely perfect."

— who have two children, Lily-Rose, nine, and six-year-old Jack, together — are yet to officially announce they are planning to tie the knot, but are rumoured to be marrying in April. The pair are keen to keep the ceremony as intimate as possible, and will only invite 50 of their closest friends and family to the service which will be held in a chapel on the grounds of their \$1.25 million US French estate.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kardashian happy about Razzie

CAREER For Kim Kardashian, it's great just to be nominated — even if it is for a Razzie, people.com reports. "I'm having a really good laugh," the actress writes on her blog. "I had so much fun filming Disaster Movie and giggled the entire time during the shoot." The reality star, 28, adds, "There is steep competition in my worst supporting actress category, I have to admit ... including my fantastic co-star Carmen Electra (you go girl!)." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aniston turning 40

PEOPLE Jennifer Aniston is planning a star-studded 40th birthday party, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The former Friends actress, who reaches the landmark age on Feb. 11, wants to celebrate early with a lavish bash at her new Beverly Hills home on Feb. 7. The guest list will include Jennifer's boyfriend John Mayer, her close pal Courteney Cox and her husband David Arquette and singer Sheryl Crow. It is believed the actress is

planning the early festivities because John wants to take her away for a romantic break for her actual birthday. The pair will leave for their intimate getaway — which will also take in Valentine's Day — straight after the party. Rumours are rife that John is set to propose on Jennifer's big day, and has splashed out on a custom-made engagement ring for her.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Perry takes vow of celibacy?

RUMOUR Katy Perry is taking a vow of celibacy, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The I Kissed a Girl singer has revealed she won't be smooching anyone this year, after splitting with her frontman Travis McCoy. When Grammy-nominated Katy, 24, was asked who she would like to kiss at the upcoming awards, she said: "I've actually taken a vow of celibacy this year ... no kissing anyone."

"Just my cat, Kitty Purry." Katy and Travis' two-year romance is believed to have ended amid a flurry of arguments. A source said: "It's sad, but they were fighting a lot in recent months because they never saw each other. When somebody becomes very famous very quickly their relationship usually suffers."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Oprah celebrates with Obamas

PEOPLE While she might not have hosted a fancy inauguration party herself, Oprah Winfrey did get to celebrate the occasion with Barack and Michelle Obama. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the new president and first lady capped off their big day just before 1 a.m. with a

private champagne toast at the White House with a very select group of friends — including Winfrey, a vocal supporter of Obama throughout the campaign.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Federline packs on the pounds

HEALTH Kevin Federline appears to have packed on major pounds, usmagazine.com reports. He showed off a fuller figure while golfing with a pal in Los Angeles Tuesday. His ex Shar Jackson explained to Us magazine last March that the 31-year-old rapper (who looked chunky last year) 31, had "daddy weight! When you are a full time parent, sometimes you can't focus on you." Meanwhile, Federline's romance with volleyball player Victoria Prince, 26, seems to be heating up. TMZ.com reports that she took Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2, out for dinner in Fresno, Calif., over the weekend.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson set to be back in spotlight

CAREER After dropping out of the public eye following her family murder tragedy, Jennifer Hudson now has the strength and the will to give three high-profile performances next month, a source close to her tells People magazine. "So much has happened, but she's ready," people.com quotes the source as saying. "It's a new year, she's excited about performing again. She knew it was time." Hudson, 27, will deliver the National Anthem at the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrate family & friends



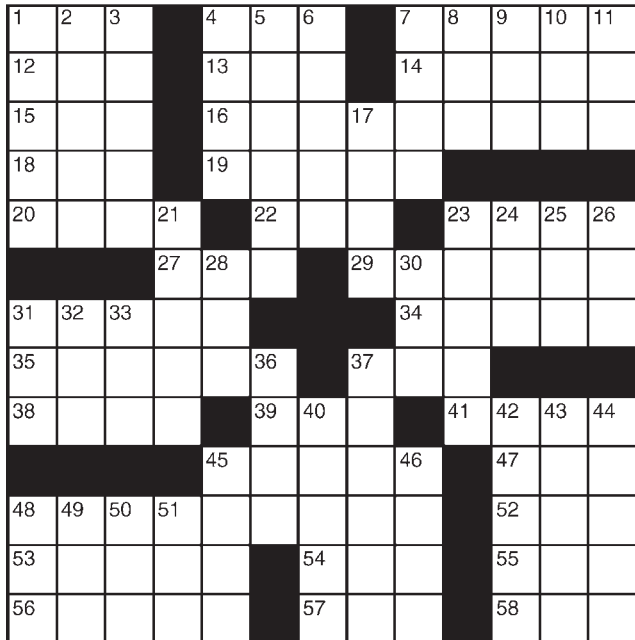
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WEEKDAYS AT 6 AM**Take Five****Crossword across**

- 1 Hot tub
4 Chances, for short
7 Blubbers
12 Dress (up)
13 Dance flourish
14 Say one's piece
15 Lord's Prayer start
16 Noted newsweekly, with "The"
18 Lemieux milieu
19 Toaster's word
20 Masticate
22 Screw up
23 Test the waters
27 Choose
29 December stone
31 Point of view
34 Dastardly one
35 Chat
37 Fool
38 Authentic
39 Every iota
41 Drink too much
45 Thwart
47 Upper limit
48 1969 Fellini movie
52 Greek vowel
53 Bewildered
54 Rd.
55 Solidify
56 Energetic
57 Wrangler rival
58 Skill

Crossword down

- 1 Unemotional
2 Joey's place?
3 Match
4 Wordsworth works
5 Type of fence
6 Animal track
7 "Groovy"
8 Spinning meas.
9 Midafternoon, on a sundial
10 Em halves
11 Collection
17 Bygone game-show host Jack
21 "The Right Stuff" author
23 Watch this space?
24 Expert
25 "SNL" announcer Pardo
26 Remnant
28 Shell game item
30 Conditions
31 Performance
32 Neither mate
33 Wildebeest
36 Indonesian island
37 Niche
40 Lifelong resident
42 Alpha's antithesis
43 Dad, in Devonshire
44 Put on a pedestal
45 Talk like 37-Across?
46 Banjo supporter
48 Chucklehead
49 Foolhardiness personified
50 1/6 fl. oz.
51 "Uh-huh"

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

Y	A	O	A	G	E	S	F	L	A	P
E	M	U	N	I	C	E	L	I	N	E
S	I	T	T	I	G	H	T	A	M	E
R	U	M	O	U	R	T	O	W	N	
T	R	I	B	A	L	P	I	C		
B	U	G	L	I	T	V	A	M	P	S
A	S	H	Y	P	O	I	R	I	O	T
R	E	T	I	E	O	L	D	D	N	A
I	C	E	D	T	E	A	A	L	I	
M	A	G	I	T	W	I	L	I	G	H
A	M	O	S	R	A	R	E	H	O	I
M	E	S	H	O	V	E	R	T	E	X

5	7	3	1	4	8	6	2	9
8	9	4	5	6	2	1	7	3
6	1	2	7	3	9	4	5	8
2	5	1	9	7	4	8	3	6
3	4	8	6	2	5	9	1	7
9	6	7	3	8	1	5	4	2
4	8	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
7	3	9	4	5	6	2	8	1
1	2	5	8	9	7	3	6	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca**SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:**

Under 13 minGenius
13-17 min.....Scholar

17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day**Cornish Beef Pockets****PASTRY INGREDIENTS:**

3 1/3 cups (825 ml) plain flour
Salt

1/2 lb (250 g) butter, chilled and diced

FILLING INGREDIENTS:

11 oz (350 g) lean chuck steak, diced

1 onion, chopped

1 potato, peeled and diced

6 oz (175 g), butternut squash, peeled and diced

1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) beef stock

2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh parsley

Salt and pepper

Beaten egg, to brush

1 garlic clove, chopped

3/4 in. (2 cm) piece fresh ginger, peeled and

chopped

1 red chili pepper, seeded and chopped

METHOD:

1. Pastry: Sift flour and pinch of salt into large bowl. Rub in butter with

fingertips until mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Sprinkle 6 tbsp (90 ml) chilled water over

mixture, then mix in. If

dough seems dry, add

more water. Gather dough

then lightly knead until

smooth. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate 20 minutes before using.

2. Filling: Put steak, onion, potato, squash, stock and parsley in bowl. Season with salt and pepper and mix well.

3. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C). Divide pastry into eight pieces. Roll out each to an 8-in. (20-cm) round.

4. Spoon equal amounts of filling onto centre of each

pastry round. Brush edges

with egg, then bring together at top. Press

edges firmly together to seal, then crimp.

5. Place pockets on two non-stick baking trays.

Brush with beaten egg.

Make small holes in tops

to let steam out.

6. Bake 15 minutes.

Reduce heat to 325 F (160

C); cook 45 minutes to 1

hour, until pastry is golden and filling is cooked.

Serve hot, warm or cold.

SERVES 8

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on

newsstands now!

**Horoscopes****AVATAR VENUS****ARIES****MARCH 21-APRIL 20**

You'll disagree with a practical person. Problems may thwart your plan to meet someone. Don't insist on talking about flirtations.

**TAURUS****APRIL 21-MAY 21**

Laughing is better than arguing with a misery-guts. Try to understand that a woman is tempted. Have fun with an old friend.

**GEMINI****MAY 22-JUNE 21**

A non-stop talker will stand up for you. Nobody can diminish your high spirits. Change your routines to avoid seeing a jerk.

**SAGITTARIUS****NOV 23-DEC 21**

A breathtaking adventure will change your outlook. End an awkward situation immediately. You can have a good impact on an idiot.

**CANCER****JUNE 22-JULY 22**

Take a thrilling new direction after a phone call. Water problems can cause distress. Don't be hoodwinked by momentary rewards.

**CAPRICORN****DEC 22-JAN 20**

You can be certain of a chance for glory. An interesting story will explain poor behaviour. You'll struggle to strengthen an emotional bond.

**LEO****JULY 23-AUG 23**

People will be riled up by unreliable gossip. Be careful what you put in e-mails. Exhaustion has unforeseen consequences.

**AQUARIUS****JAN 21-FEB 18**

Don't lose sleep over a minor problem. You have the courage to do fascinating things. Take other people's wickedness into account.

**VIRGO****AUG 24-SEPT 22**

A flirtation will result from a strong emotional connection. Your heart's desire can be fulfilled. Dreadful behaviour will cause you to feel insecure.

**PISCES****FEB 19-MARCH 20**

A friend's defiance will result in more respect. Don't take chances with your health. An elder is suffering from embarrassment.



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